

“SLUGOGRAM”

The words below come from the right-hand margin of page 23 of John Updike’s *S.*

In order to compose my poem, I added twelve words of my own (and eliminated one) to make everything “hang together”.

wrong
whereas
him
nature
calls
grass
also
other
wry
when
did
my
as
worry
think
before
of
the
above
the
mermaid
from
portholes
that
dabbed-
on
a
that
continuing
but
be

“Mistaken Mermaids”

Wrong!
Whereas **to** him Nature calls grass (also others)
Wry worry thinks before **and**
Forswears the above

The mermaid, **seen** from portholes
That are **as** dabbed-on **as** a **movie set**,
Is continuing
But, **aye, she** be **sham**